

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 02604 300935Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 JUSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0194
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN KS US
SUBJ: KIM DONG-JO TESTIMONY: PRESS COVERAGE

1. SUMMARY: MARCH 30 PRESS CARRIES MAJOR ARTICLES QUOTING
GOVERNMENT SOURCES ON ISSUE OF KIM DONG-JO AND CONGRESSIONAL
DEMAND FOR HIS TESTIMONY. TENOR OF COMMENTS FROM SOURCES
SUGGESTS SOME FORM OF COOPERATION IS ACTIVELY BEING CONSIDERED.

2. KOREA TIMES: "RELIABLE SOURCES IN THE GOVERNMENT SAID
THAT A COOPERATION FORMULA WAS UNDER EXAMINATION WITHIN THE
SCOPE OF NOT VIOLATING KIM'S DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY AND NOT
DAMAGING KOREAN NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY". IN CONTRADICTION
TO YESTERDAY'S SEOUL SINMUN REPORT OF LETTER RESPONSE BY
KIM, TIMES CITES "MINISTRY SOURCES", WHO "EXCLUDE THE
POSSIBILITY OF A COMPROMISE FORMULA IN WHICH KIM WOULD
ANSWER QUESTIONS OF THE US CONGRESS THROUGH A PERSONAL
LETTER. THEY OPINED THAT WOULD BE LESS REALISTIC THAN
A FACE-TO-FACE INTERVIEW". OTHER PAPERS SPECULATE ON
POSSIBILITIES OF 1) KIM MEETING WITH CONGRESSIONAL
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OFFICIALS IN SEOUL OR A THIRD COUNTRY; AND 2) A JOINT
US/ROK CLOSED SESSION FOR KIM'S TESTIMONY.. CHUNGANG
ILBO NOTES "CERTAIN MOMENTUM EVIDENCED BY RECENT MEETINGS" AND
SINA ILBO SEES "SUDDEN CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT VIEWS".

3. KYONGHYANG SINMUN CITES "GOVERNMENT SOURCE" WHO
NOTES CONGRESS HAS NOT OFFERED A NEW SPECIFIC COMPROMISE

PROPOSAL ON MATTER; SOURCE SAYS AMB KIM YONG-SIK WILL RETURN TO WASHINGTON IN EARLY APRIL AT WHICH TIME HE WILL SOUND OUT CONGRESSIONAL POSITION WITH SPEAKER O'NEILL, CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS AND DOS.

4. CHUNGANG ILBO QUOTES "US EMBASSY SOURCE": "SINCE WHAT CONGRESS CONSIDERS IMPORTANT IS NOT THE FORMALITY OF AMB KIM'S TESTIMONY, BUT THE CONTENT OF SUCH TESTIMONY, IT IS FELT THAT VISIT TO SEOUL BY CONGRESSIONAL OFFICIALS TO MEET AMB KIM IS A BETTER METHOD THAN SENDING A PERSONAL LETTER TO CONGRESS".

5. VARIOUSLY REPORTED AS "TOMORROW" OR "WITHIN A FEW DAYS" PRESS REPORT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WILL HAVE AN INFORMAL SESSION WITH ROKG OFFICIALS, INCLUDING FORMIN AND AMB KIM YONG-SIK TO DISCUSS US/ROK RELATIONS SINCE PTS TESTIMONY AND QUESTION OF KIM DONG-JO TESTIMONY. TONGA ILBO NOTES MEETING IS AT DEMAND OF NDP AND QUOTES YI CH'UL SUNG ("THERE MUST BE PROVIDED MEASURES TO COOPERATE WITH US WITHIN SCOPE OF NOT DAMAGING NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY") AND KIM YONG-SAM ("THE ISSUES CONCERNING AMB KIM AND OTHERS MUST BE DISCLOSED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE").

6. KYONGHYANG SINMUN QUOTES YI MUN-YONG, MOFA ASST MIN FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS: "ADVANCE SPECULATIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPORTING BY THE PRESS, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT FINALIZED ITS POSITION, IS NOT HELPING IN ANY WAY FOR A SPEEDY SETTLEMENT OF THE ISSUE".
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, INVESTIGATIONS, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 30 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Message ID: 90d318c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: N/A
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: KIM DONG-JO TESTIMONY: PRESS COVERAGE
TAGS: SOPN, PGOV, KS, US, (KIM DONG-JO)
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